Seizure of Gold Other Valuables in Gujarat

974. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) what is the number of seizures of gold and other valuables, itemwise, during the last one year in Gujarat during raids by Customs and Excise Departments officials;

(b) what is the estimated value of these seizures, itemwise;

(c) what is the number of cases in which the seizures are due to the informers/officers of Customs and Excise Departments;

(d) what is the amount of reward given to each informer/officer in accordance with the rules; and

(e) what is the number of cases in which the officers of Customs Department have represented to Government for inadequate reward and what steps are being taken to examine their cases in accordance with the rules?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

CBI Raids conducted on the Premises of Development Commissioners, Iron and Steel

975. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted raids at the office/residential premises of Development Commissioners, Iron and Steel, Delhi and Bombay recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of complaints of harassment of traders by these officers have been received during the last one year, and

(c) what steps are being taken against such officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL): (a) The Central Bureau of Investigation conducted simultaneous searches of the office as well as residential premises of Regional Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel, New Delhi, in August, 1990.

There is no report of any raid at the office/residence of the Regional Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel, Bombay.

(b) Some complaints have been received in this Department concerning the Regional Development Commissioners. The complaints have not been substantiated Several of them are pseudonymous complaints.

(c) CBI has registered a regular case against the Regional Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel, New Delhi for possession of assets disproportionate to the known sources of his income.

Increase in Excise Duty on Cement, Steel and Cigarettes

976. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to increase the excise duty on cement, steel and cigarettes in order to mobilise more funds;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard, and

(c) what has been the percentage of increase in the excise and other duties on the above commodities during the last three years and to what extent Government has collected excise duties from the above items, item-wise?